



Planned Parenthood Federation of America President Cecile Richards listens while testifying on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015, before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on "Planned Parenthood's Taxpayer Funding."

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)
Page 4



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Congress: US fails to stop most people trying to join ISIS group

ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government has largely failed to stop more than 250 Americans who have traveled overseas since 2011 to join or try to join terrorist groups, including the Islamic State group, a new congressional study concluded on Tuesday. It did not provide details on the several dozen who have sneaked back into the United States without being arrested or monitored.

"The findings are concerning; we are losing in this struggle to keep Americans from the battlefield," House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul said Tuesday after his committee released the 65-page report.

The report said the Obama administration lacked a strategy to prevent such travel abroad, identify all who try to return to commit terror attacks, or cope with new recruitment practices and technology that allow extremists to communicate securely.

"Of the hundreds of Americans who have sought to travel to the conflict zone

in Syria and Iraq, authorities have only interdicted a fraction of them," the report said. "Several dozen have also managed to make it back into America." It noted that several people were identified and arrested this year trying to return to the United States. In other cases, authorities are monitoring people who have returned from the region, said McCaul, R-Texas. Rep. John Katko, a Republican, who helped write the report, said radicalization of Americans over the Internet "poses probably the biggest problem" for U.S. law enforcement and others trying to detect and combat efforts by international terrorist organization to recruit U.S. citizens to join the fight overseas.

The report said of particular concern were western Europeans who travel to Iraq or Syria and would be permitted to fly to the U.S. without applying for a visa. "American returnees are not the only threat to the United States," it said.

Katko said the committee will work to draft several pieces of legislation based on the report's 32 recommendations. □

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New US sanctions illustrate sprawling Islamic State network

KEN DILANIAN
AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government announced sanctions Tuesday against 25 people and five groups connected to the Islamic State, disclosing intelligence that depicts a sprawling international organization with tentacles across Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

The moves by the Treasury and State departments are aimed at disrupting the activities of Islamic State financial, logistical and recruiting operatives who may not be suitable targets of American bombs or drone strikes.

Many of them reside outside the theaters of war in Iraq and Syria.

The sanctions, the largest

such effort against the Islamic State, also serve to demonstrate how far and wide the group's ideology has spread.

The State Department designated as foreign terrorist organizations Islamic State regional spin-offs in Russia's Caucasus region, Algeria, Indonesia and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Among the individuals designated as terrorists was Sally Jones, a British native and the widow of an operative killed recently in an American drone strike.

The Treasury Department, meanwhile, slapped financial sanctions on Islamic State officials who operate in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Libya, Yemen and Tunisia. Among the individuals it sanctioned in Syria was



Assistant Treasury Secretary Daniel Glaser, right, listens to testimony on Capitol Hill in Washington. The U.S. government announced sanctions Tuesday against 25 people and five groups connected to the Islamic State.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

British national Aqsa Mahmood, who is accused of recruiting three British schoolgirls in February to flee the United Kingdom to become wives of Islamic State fighters. She is be-

lieved to be in Syria.

Previously, Treasury had sanctioned just four Islamic State officials, one of whom was killed in a U.S. drone strike in June.

Some of those sanctioned

by Treasury are also expected to be placed Tuesday on the United Nations' al-Qaida Sanctions List, officials said in a news release. The announcement came before a meeting between President Barack Obama and other world leaders on countering the Islamic State on the margins of the U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York.

"These sanctions will prevent them from engaging in financial transactions and make it harder for them to travel," he said.

Financial institutions around the world tend to honor U.S. sanctions, he said. The State Department designations mean that anyone who supports the individuals or groups can be prosecuted under U.S. law. □

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Facing US Congress, Planned Parenthood chief rebuts videos



Michele Hendrickson, 29, of Columbia, Md., left, and Lisa Twigg, 26, of Spotsylvania, Va., take a photo of themselves wearing "Life" tape over their mouths during the hearing on "Planned Parenthood's Taxpayer Funding," Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015, on Capitol Hill in Washington. The women, who describe themselves as being "pro-life," removed the tape after being told they had to in order to remain at the hearing. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

ALAN FRAM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The head of Planned Parenthood defended the U.S. women's health organization Tuesday before a Republican-run Congress bent on slashing its federal funding, telling lawmakers that accusations against her group fed by stealthily recorded videos are "offensive and categorically untrue."

In Planned Parenthood's first appearance before Congress since those videos emerged this summer, Republicans on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee argued that the group needs no taxpayer financing. They cited Planned Parenthood tax documents showing it spends millions on political activities, travel and exorbitant salaries.

"That's money that's not going to women's health care," said committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz, a Republican. "It's a political organization, and that's something that needs to be ferreted out."

Cecile Richards, Planned Parenthood's president, told the lawmakers that her group has fallen victim to a "smear campaign" based on videos in which its officials coolly describe how they sometimes harvest tissue from aborted fetuses for scientific research.

Conservatives and many Republicans say the videos, made by abortion foes posing as private purchasers of fetal organs, show Planned Parenthood has broken federal laws including a ban on for-profit fetal tissue sales. The organization says it's acted legally and says the videos were deceitfully edited.

"The outrageous accusations leveled against Planned Parenthood,

based on heavily doctored videos, are offensive and categorically untrue," Richards said.

Richards also said the videos have inspired an increase in threats against Planned Parenthood clinics.

The recordings have pumped Planned Parenthood and the abortions many of its nearly 700 clinics provide into an electric political issue, with many Republican presidential candidates frequently lambasting the group. Conservatives' demands that Congress cut its federal payments — for which Republicans lack the votes to succeed — contributed to the Republican unrest that prompted House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican, to announce his resignation last week.

Planned Parenthood gets around a third of its \$1.3 billion yearly budget from federal payments, mostly reimbursements for treating low-income Medicaid patients. By law, nearly no federal funds can be used for abortion. The group provides contraception, sexual disease testing and cancer screenings as well as abortions to 2.7 million patients annually in clinics from coast to coast.

Congress is on track to approve legislation this week preventing an imminent federal shutdown and continuing federal payments to Planned Parenthood. But House committees began working Tuesday on separate legislation that would cut most of the organization's federal money and would be immune to Senate delaying tactics by Democrats. That means that measure has a strong chance of reaching President Barack Obama's desk, where it would face certain veto. □

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1st trial in Baltimore police death case set for Nov. 30



From left to right, Attorneys Marc Zayon, Michael Belsky, Chaz Ball and Mike Davey leave Courthouse East after a scheduling hearing for Caesar Goodson, Edward Nero, Garrett Miller, Brian Rice, Alicia White, and William Porter, police officers charged in the death of Freddie Gray, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015, in Baltimore. Zayon represents Nero, Belsky and Ball represent Rice and Davey is with the Fraternal Order of Police.

(Kim Hairston /The Baltimore Sun via AP)

JULIET LINDERMAN

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — The first trial for six Baltimore officers charged in the death of a black man who died after being injured in a police car will be held Nov. 30, and the other trials are set for early next year.

Judge Barry Williams decided Tuesday that Officer William Porter will go on trial first. He is accused of failing to provide or request medical care for Freddie Gray and not securing him safely in a van. Porter faces charges of manslaughter, assault, reckless endangerment and misconduct in office in the death of Gray. Gray died April 19, a week after he was injured. His death led to protests and rioting in Baltimore, and was among the incidents that spurred a protest movement over the treatment of blacks by police in America. It also shed light on long-standing and systemic disenfranchisement of African-Americans in the city.

Prosecutors said they intend to call Porter as a witness against at least two other officers. The judge ruled earlier this month that each officer will get his or her own trial and that they will be held in the city. Attorneys for the six officers asked Williams to move the trials outside of Baltimore, citing pre-trial

media coverage they say could prejudice a jury. The judge kept the door open to re-evaluate his decision should the state and defense run into problems seating a jury.

Prosecutors have suggested in a letter to the judge that the state intends to call Porter to testify against Sgt. Alicia White, who faces the same charges he does, and Officer Caesar Goodson, who faces an additional “depraved-heart” murder charge.

Goodson will be tried Jan. 6 and White’s trial will begin Jan. 25. Officers Garrett Miller and Edward Nero face misdemeanor assault, misconduct in office and reckless endangerment charges, as does Lt. Brian Rice, who also faces a manslaughter charge. □

Board denies clemency for only woman on Georgia’s death row

KATE BRUMBACK

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A parole board on Tuesday once again denied clemency for the only woman on Georgia’s death row, putting her one step closer to being the first woman executed by the state in seven decades.

Kelly Renee Gissendaner is scheduled to die by injection of pentobarbital at the state prison in Jackson. Gissendaner, 47, was convicted of murder in the February 1997 slaying of her husband. She conspired with her lover, who stabbed Douglas Gissendaner to death. The Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles did not give a reason for its denial after it met on Tuesday, saying only that it had carefully considered her request for reconsideration. Gissendaner was previously scheduled for execution Feb. 25, but that was delayed because of a threat of winter weather. Her execution was reset for March 2, but corrections officials postponed that execution

“out of an abundance of caution” because the execution drug appeared “cloudy.”

The parole board, which is the only entity in Georgia authorized to commute a death sentence, also declined to spare Gissendaner’s life after a clemency hearing in February. Her lawyers asked the board to reconsider its decision before the second execution date, but the board stood by its decision to deny clemency.

Gissendaner’s lawyers last Thursday submitted a second request to reconsider the denial of clemency. The parole board said Monday that its members have thoroughly reviewed that request. The board said the meeting Tuesday would allow it to gather additional information from representatives for Gissendaner.

The board could have let its earlier denial of clemency stand, issued a stay of up to 90 days to further consider the case, or granted clemency and commuted her sentence. □

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Votes this week will decide fate of Fiat Chrysler-UAW deal

DETROIT (AP) — The next two days will be critical in deciding the fate of a new four-year contract between Fiat Chrysler and the United Auto Workers. In early voting, workers at several factories rejected the deal, but those at a pickup truck plant in Warren, Michigan, voted in favor. UAW leaders are still hoping that the contract will pass at large factories in Belvidere, Illinois; Sterling Heights, Michigan; and Toledo, Ohio. Results should be tallied Wednesday or Thursday at the plants, which together employ more than 12,000 workers.

The UAW, which represents about 40,000 Fiat Chrysler workers, reached a tentative agreement with the company two weeks ago that includes pay raises, the potential for increased profit sharing and a \$3,000 signing bonus. But the raises don't bring an end to a two-tier wage structure that pays workers hired before 2007 more money. The contract also allows the company to shift some car production to low-wage Mexico, replacing it with new trucks and SUVs that carry higher price tags to cover higher U.S. wages. If the deal is rejected, the union could go back to



Protestors picket outside UAW Solidarity House in Detroit against the provisions of a tentative contract agreement reached with Fiat Chrysler. The next two days will be critical in deciding the fate of a new four-year contract between Fiat Chrysler and the UAW.

(David Coates/The Detroit News via AP)

the bargaining table with Fiat Chrysler, also known as FCA US LLC, or it could shift bargaining to either Ford or General Motors. It could also go on strike. Workers at all three companies have stayed on the job un-

der extensions of their old contract, which expired on Sept. 14. Usually the first deal reached serves as a basic template for the other two companies, although UAW President Dennis Williams made it clear he ex-

pects to get more from GM and Ford, which are more profitable than FCA. Voting is difficult to track because plant-level union officials usually release only percentages of votes for and against the contract. At the company's engine plant in Trenton, Michigan, south of Detroit, 80 percent of production workers voted against the deal last week. Mike McCarthy, a machine operator, said the contract had good points, but he voted "no" because it didn't give the lower-tier workers a path to reaching the top wage of \$28.50 per hour. Although he is paid at the higher hourly rate, McCarthy said there "wasn't any light at the end of the tunnel" for the second-tier workers. "We need to be more equal. It's got to be a fairer deal." □

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Forming a coalition: Major companies push for LGBT rights globally

KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — A dozen corporations, including Google Inc., Microsoft Corp., and Coca-Cola Co., are joining a new coalition to push for LGBT rights in the workplace in places beyond the U.S. and Western Europe. The organization is partly a response to the recent setbacks for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights in countries like Russia, Uganda and the Middle East. The Human Rights Campaign-led group will push for protections in the workplace globally, including in countries where LGBT individuals face legal dis-

crimination or harassment. "They deserve a fair chance to earn a living and provide for their families no matter where they live," said HRC President Chad Griffin. Corporate America has been cited as a force in the push for gay rights in the U.S., with some companies offering LGBT protections and same-sex partner benefits going back decades. Hundreds of companies signed statements advocating for same-sex marriage when the issue to the Supreme Court earlier this year. The coalition members are: the consulting firm Accenture, AT&T Inc., software company CA Technolo-

gies, Coca-Cola, Destination Weddings Travel Group, Google, IBM, Microsoft, home furnishings maker Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, consumer products giant Procter & Gamble Co., china and glassware company Replacements Ltd., and Symantec Corp. HRC officials expect the group's members to grow. "We have long supported LGBT rights, but it is very difficult to implement protections for our employees and for their families when laws do not exist or it's a hostile environment," said Mary Snapp, corporate vice president and deputy general counsel at Microsoft. □



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US Financial Front:

American home prices rise steadily in July, lifted by higher sales

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. home prices rose at a solid pace in July, as would-be buyers competed for a diminished supply of available housing.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city home price index climbed 5 percent in July from a year earlier. That's up from a 4.9 percent annual pace in June.

Home prices rose in all 20 cities over the past 12 months. San Francisco posted the biggest gain of 10.4 percent, followed by Denver with 10.3 percent. Steady job growth and an economic recovery in its seventh year have encouraged more Americans to buy homes. That lifted sales to an eight-year high in July. Yet those buyers have bid up prices in many areas because the number of homes for sale remains limited.

The current housing inventory is equal to 5.2 months of sales, below the six months that is typical in a balanced housing market. Price gains were much smaller in many Eastern and Midwestern cities. Home prices were just 1.7 percent higher in Washington, D.C. compared with 12 months earlier, only 1.8 percent higher in Chicago, and up just 1.9 percent in New York.

Svenja Gudell, chief economist at real estate data firm Zillow, said the housing market is continuing to improve despite some conflicting trends. New home sales jumped to a seven-year high in August even as existing home sales slipped. Mortgage rates remain low, though it can be difficult for first-time buyers

to qualify for a loan.

"The market is continuing to heal and find its footing in a new environment, one where highly local factors ... matter more than national trends," she said.

The Case-Shiller index covers roughly half of U.S. homes. The index measures prices compared with those in January 2000 and creates a three-month moving average. The July figures are the latest available.

Consistent price gains can make homeowners feel wealthier and more likely to spend, providing a boost to the economy. Higher home values also reduce the number of Americans who owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth, a condition known as being "under water."



A 'for sale' sign is posted in front of a home in Miami. Standard & Poor's released its 20-city home price index for July on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky, File)

Still, housing faces several challenges in the coming months. Prices are rising at more than double the rate of wages, which have increased just 2.2 percent in

the past 12 months. That is likely pricing many would-be buyers out of the market.

And while mortgage rates are still low, they could be

headed up soon. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen has indicated that the Fed may raise short-term rates for the first time in nine years before the end of the year. That would eventually push up mortgage rates. Those trends may already be weighing on sales of existing homes. They slid nearly 5 percent in August from July's eight-year high to the lowest level since April, the National Association of Realtors said last week.

And fewer Americans signed contracts to buy homes in August. That suggests sales may slip further in the coming months. A signed contract typically precedes a completed sale by one or two months. Still, existing home sales are 6.2 percent higher than a year ago. □

US consumer confidence rises again in September

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

American consumers were feeling more confident again this month, good news for the U.S. economy. The Conference Board, a business research group, said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index rose again to 103 in September after surging in August to 101.3. The September reading was the highest since January. Economists had expected the index to fall this month.

Consumers' assessment of present economic conditions hit the highest level in eight years. More than 25 percent of Americans said jobs were plentiful, highest share since September 2007.

Expectations for the future fell slightly. Compared to August, however, a bigger



Grocery cashier Amarilys Martinez, right, checks out a customer at a local grocery in the Little Havana area of Miami. The Conference Board released its September index on U.S. consumer confidence on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015.

(AP Photo/Alan Diaz)

share of Americans said they were planning to buy cars and homes over the next six months.

The U.S. economy is looking healthy. Economic growth came in at a 3.9 percent annual rate from April through June, and unem-

ployment has dropped to a seven-year low 5.1 percent.

But worries about an economic slowdown in China and other emerging markets have rattled financial markets.

"The surprising improve-

ment in confidence suggests that the recent international turbulence has had little impact on consumers' domestic confidence," economist Bricklin Dwyer of BNP Paribas wrote in a research note. "We expect consumption to continue to expand at a solid pace throughout the end of 2015."

Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

Still, another gauge of consumers' spirits — the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index — fell this month to the lowest level in almost a year. Richard Curtin, chief economist for the Michigan survey, blamed the drop on worries that troubles overseas will hurt hiring and wages in the United States. □



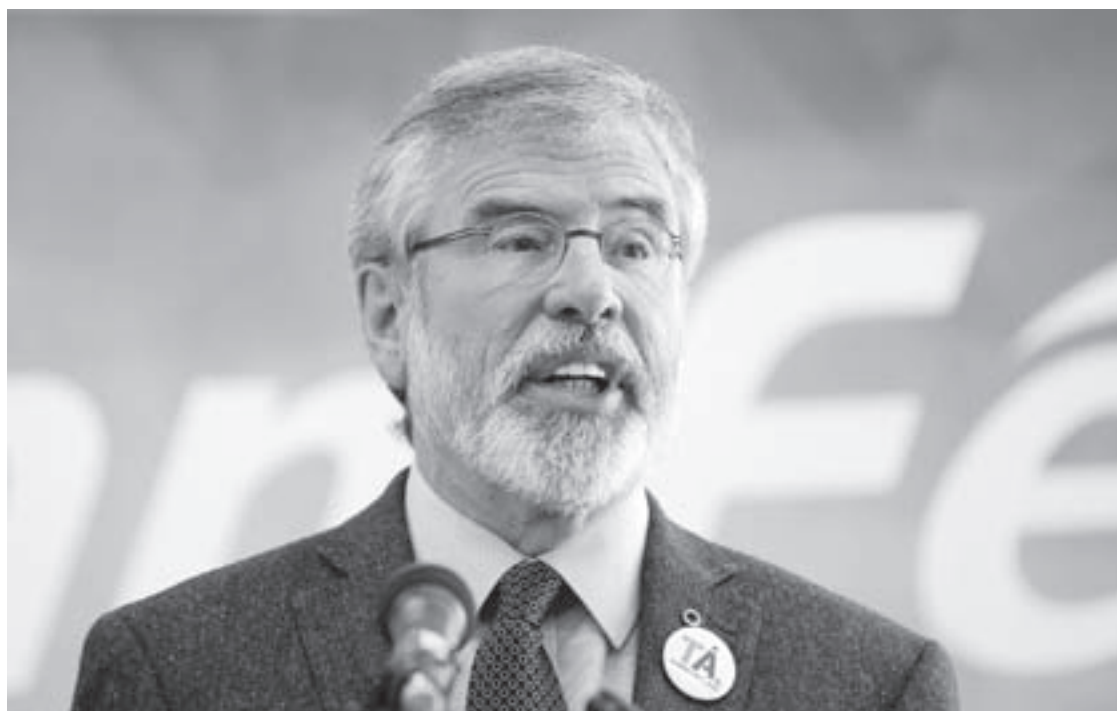
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Adams, 6 others face no charges over 1972 IRA killing



Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams speaks in Dungannon, Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland prosecutors on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 said Sinn Fein party leader Gerry Adams and six other suspected IRA veterans will face no charges over the outlawed group's 1972 abduction, slaying and secret burial of a Belfast mother of 10.

S. POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Sinn Fein party leader Gerry Adams and six other suspected IRA veterans will face no charges over the outlawed group's 1972 abduction,

slaying and secret burial of a Belfast homemaker, Northern Ireland prosecutors announced Tuesday. Adams, 66, was arrested last year on suspicion of involvement in the disappearance of Jean McConville, a 38-year-old widowed mother of 10 whom the Irish Republican Army believed was a British informer. Detectives freed Adams without charge after four days of questioning, but sent an evidence

file to prosecutors. Northern Ireland's deputy director of public prosecutions, Pamela Atchison, announced that Adams and six others arrested in the McConville probe would face no charges. Atchison said evidence was "insufficient to provide a reasonable prospect of obtaining a conviction against any of them." Adams, whose Irish nationalist party leads Northern Ireland's Irish Catholic minority, called the decision "long overdue." He said he had been falsely accused as part of "a sustained and malicious campaign seeking to involve me with the killing of Mrs. McConville." After his release from custody in May 2014, Adams said detectives had grilled him about audio tapes from two IRA veterans, Dolours Price and Brendan Hughes, both of whom had identified Adams as an IRA commander in Belfast in 1972 responsible for ordering McConville's killing and disappearance.

(AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

Negotiators:

Weapons withdrawal deal reached in east Ukraine

YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Representatives of Russia, Ukraine and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe reached a long-awaited agreement late Tuesday on the withdrawal of tanks and other weapons from the frontline in eastern Ukraine. "This is a document that opens a path to peace, a path to an end of violence and attacks," Russian negotiator Azamat Kulmukhametov said. The deal supplements a broad agreement signed in February aimed at ending the conflict between the

Western-aligned Ukrainian government and Russia-backed rebels. Many of its provisions remain unimplemented. The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, France and Germany, who negotiated the February agreement, are meeting in Paris on Friday to try to push forward a political settlement for eastern Ukraine, where the fighting has killed more than 8,000 people since it began in April 2014. To lay the groundwork for that meeting, their foreign ministers met in Berlin on Sept. 12 and afterward expressed hope that the agreement on withdrawing

weapons could be signed within days, but the talks dragged on for two weeks. The cease-fire declared as part of the February agreement was regularly violated by both sides until they declared a new truce on Sept. 1, which has largely held. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday told The Associated Press the latter is a positive sign which proves a "possibility of progress" on other provisions of international agreements. The NATO leader, who spoke at the sidelines of the annual U.N. General Assembly in New York, sin-

gled out Russia's support for separatists in the east of Ukraine as the "main challenge" to putting an end to the conflict. He also expressed concern that separatists' plans to hold local elections in defiance of the Ukrainian government might derail the full implementation of the peace accord. The deal reached Tuesday in Minsk, Belarus, by the so-called Contact Group calls for tanks, artillery and also mortars up to 120 mm to be pulled back at least 15 kilometers (9 miles) from the frontline, OSCE negotiator Martin Sajdik said. □

Germany lowers housing standards on migrant crisis

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Refugees coming to Germany can expect a roof over their head, a bed to sleep in and three meals a day. But with authorities struggling to find housing for tens of thousands of people each month, many new arrivals will find their lodgings a squeeze. Smaller, in fact, than what's permitted for a German shepherd dog. An Associated Press survey has found that several of Germany's 16 states have waived the usual rules expected of communal housing. As a result, migrants in some parts of Germany are finding themselves living in cramped conditions that rights groups say are unfit for human habitation. "The situation is becoming dramatic," said Karl Kopp, an expert on refugee policy with the campaign group Pro Asyl.

"If we put people up in undignified conditions then this will have long-term consequences for their health and their ability to integrate in the country." On Sunday 14 people — including three police officers — were injured when a mass brawl involving hundreds of refugees broke out at a reception center in Calden, near Kassel. The site is a tent city originally designed for 1,000 people but now housing 1,500. "Improvised, often catastrophically overcrowded emergency shelters offer residents no privacy or place to retreat," Pro Asyl said following the incident. "Every trip to the canteen, to the toilets or the showers becomes a patience test in these mass shelters." □



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Syria state media praise Putin speech at the United Nations

ALBERT AJI

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syria's state media on Tuesday praised Vladimir Putin's speech before the U.N. General Assembly in which the Russian leader defended Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Syrian newspapers said the speech drew "clear outlines" for what is needed to "fight terrorism" on a global level.

In his address Monday in New York, Putin urged the world to stick with Assad, saying it was a "huge mistake" not to engage the Syrian military in the fight against the Islamic State group.

The Al-Baath daily of Assad's ruling party said the essence of the Russian plan for combating terrorism is "simple and clear." Al-Baath added that "the Russian step is pivotal in the history of the region and the world to prevent the expansion of devastation."

The daily Al-Thawra said Putin entered the United Nations "from the Syrian gate," adding that "the Russian surgeon came to fix flabbiness in the international legitimacy."

Al-Thawra said Putin struck in his speech at "American charlatanism about fighting terrorism."

U.S. President Barack Obama and Putin held their first formal meeting in more than two years in New York on Monday without reaching a breakthrough on Syria, which has strained their already tense relationship.

The U.S. still insists Syria's future cannot include Assad, while Putin appears keen to bolster the standing of his longtime ally, casting Assad's government as the best defense against Islamic State militants.

Moscow has been ramping up its involvement in Syria in recent weeks by ferrying weapons, troops and supplies to an airport near the Syrian coastal city of Latakia in what the U.S. sees as preparations for setting up an air base there.

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said Russia's presence in Syria is near the coast, far from Israel. But he said Israel will not tolerate advanced weapons reaching Lebanon's militant Hezbollah, which has fought alongside Syrian troops. Yaalon said Israeli warplanes on Monday targeted two Syrian artillery guns suspected of shelling inside the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights. He said Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Putin that "we are not involved and we don't have any interest to intervene in the civil war in Syria, but we have to keep our interests." Retired Israeli army Col. Jacques Neriah said Russia has a "moderate presence" in Syria.

"It will help in stabilizing the area, and especially if Russia has the intent to fight the Islamic State together with the United States and the Western coalition," said the former deputy head for assessment of the Israeli army's military intelligence.

Sheikh Naim Kassem, deputy leader of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group, which has sent fighters to help Assad, said Tuesday that "Russia intervened by its weapons and capabilities because there is someone that stood on his feet," referring to Assad, who is at war with an array of rebel and Islamic militant groups. □



A Taliban fighter sits on his motorcycle adorned with a Taliban flag in a street in Kunduz, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015. The U.S. military carried out an airstrike on Tuesday on the northern Afghan city of Kunduz, which was captured by the Taliban the previous day in a major setback to the government of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. (AP Photo)

Despite US airstrikes; Taliban tighten hold on Afghanistan city

LYNNE O'DONNELL

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— A day after a strategic northern city fell to the Taliban, the insurgents fanned out in full force Tuesday, closing roads, throwing up checkpoints and torching government buildings as fearful residents huddled indoors amid signs a promised Afghan counteroffensive was faltering.

U.S. warplanes carried out two airstrikes on Taliban positions, but government ground troops sent to try to retake Kunduz, one of Afghanistan's wealthiest cities, were stalled by roadblocks and ambushes, unable to move closer than about a mile (two kilometers) toward their target.

A NATO officer said more airstrikes were unlikely as "all the Taliban are inside the city and so are all the people." He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief media on the issue.

His words suggested the

fight to retake the city would involve painstaking street-by-street fighting as government forces try to avoid civilian casualties in retaking control.

Inside the city, residents were stunned by the audacity of the insurgents, who attacked Kunduz on a number of fronts before dawn on Monday, taking the government, intelligence agency and military by surprise.

The insurgents used mosque loudspeakers to try to reassure people they were safe. But residents, recalling the group's brutality during its 1996-2001 rule of Afghanistan, were fearful of what was to come. "Kunduz is a ghost city now, fear has locked people inside their homes," said Foad Hammad, a local freelance journalist who escaped late Monday to neighboring Takhar province.

He said Taliban gunmen were going door to door "searching for government officials, local po-

lice commanders, anyone they can think of. No one is safe."

The fall of the city of 300,000 inhabitants — the first urban area taken by the Taliban since the U.S. invasion ousted their regime 14 years ago — is a major setback to President Ashraf Ghani, who has staked his presidency on bringing peace to Afghanistan and seeking to draw the Taliban to peace talks. In a televised address, he vowed to take Kunduz back from the insurgents, urging the nation to trust Afghan troops to do the job.

"The enemy has sustained heavy casualties," he said. "The enemy's main objective was to create fear and terror."

U.S. warplanes carried out two airstrikes, one early Tuesday morning and another just before midnight near the Kunduz airport to eliminate a threat to the force, said Col. Brian Tribus, spokesman for U.S. forces in Afghanistan. □

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Clashes between Turkish forces, Kurdish rebels kill about 60

SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Clashes between Turkish security forces and autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels have claimed nearly 60 lives in the southeast and across the border in northern Iraq, officials said Tuesday.

More than 30 Kurdish reb-

els were killed overnight in a cross-border military operation in northern Iraq, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said during a meeting with dozens of district administrators.

Kurdish militants killed two police officers Monday night in the southern city of Adana. Gov. Mustafa Buyuk said assailants rid-

ing a motorcycle fired on a police vehicle outside a hospital in Adana before fleeing.

Turkey's military, meanwhile, said six rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, were killed Monday in a clash with the security forces in Hakkari province, near the border with Iraq. At least 19 others were

killed in airstrikes Friday conducted by Turkish jets against suspected PKK targets in northern Iraq's Gara region, a military statement said Tuesday, without elaborating. The reports of PKK deaths couldn't be verified independently.

Turkey's security forces are battling the rebels in the country's mainly Kurd-

ish southeast region while Turkish jets carry out air strikes against PKK targets in northern Iraq. The fighting with the PKK, which is considered a terror organization by Turkey and its Western allies, resumed in July and comes as Turkey prepares to hold a new parliamentary election on Nov. 1. □

Palestinians, Israeli forces clash amid holy site tensions

MAJDI MOHAMMED
Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — Palestinian demonstrators clashed with Israeli troops across the West Bank on Tuesday, while three tourists were lightly wounded by Palestinian stone throwers as tensions remained high following days of violence at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site.

The hilltop compound, revered by Jews as the Temple Mount and by Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, was largely quiet Tuesday. About 600 tourists and 100 Israelis visited the site without serious incident. Israel has barred Muslim men under the age of 50 from entering the compound in recent days in a move



Paramedics help a wounded Palestinian during clashes with Israeli troops near Ramallah, West Bank, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015.
(AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed)

it says is aimed at easing tensions.

The site has experienced repeated clashes over the past two weeks as Palestinian protesters barricaded themselves inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque while hurl-

ing stones, firebombs and fireworks at Israeli police outside.

The compound in Jerusalem's Old City is a frequent flashpoint and its fate is a core issue at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian con-

flict. The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem, which was captured by Israel from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war, as their future capital. The compound is sacred to Muslims, who refer to it as Noble Sanctuary, the place where they believe Islam's Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.

The compound is also where the two biblical Jewish Temples stood, and is Judaism's holiest site. Under a longstanding arrangement, Jews are allowed to visit but not pray there.

The Palestinians view such visits as provocations, and rumors have spread that Jews are planning on taking over the site, fueling the recent clashes. Israel

says there are no plans to change the arrangements. But calls by a group of religious Jews to visit the site, coupled with periodic Israeli restrictions on Muslim visits, have inflamed tensions.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel is committed to maintaining the status quo at the site and that it is the Palestinians who are breaching the fragile agreement there. "Israel wants peace with the Palestinian people that unfortunately continue to spread crass lies about our policy on the Temple Mount. I will demand an end to this wild incitement," Netanyahu said before leaving for the U.N. General Assembly in New York. □

Yemen officials: Death toll from strikes on wedding at 131

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — The death toll from Saudi-led airstrikes that hit a wedding party in Yemen has risen to 131, making it the deadliest single incident since the start of the country's civil war, medical officials said Tuesday. The U.N. says at least 2,355 civilians have been killed in fighting since

March, when the coalition began launching airstrikes against Shiite Houthi rebels and allied army units, who control the capital and are at war with the internationally recognized government as well as southern separatists, local militias and Sunni extremists. At least 80 women were killed in the wedding airstrikes in the central province of Taiz, said

Yemeni medical officials who work in the province and have been neutral in the conflict. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters. Hassan Boucenine, of the Geneva-based Doctors Without Borders, called it the deadliest single incident since the beginning of the conflict.

"To be honest it's worse and worse...it's beyond despair," said Boucenine, speaking about the war.

The Saudi-led and U.S.-backed coalition apparently struck the wedding party by mistake on Monday in al-Wahga, a village near the town of Mokha and the strategic Strait of Bab al-Mandab, Yemeni security officials said. The region is

largely populated by fishermen and livestock traders.

"They struck a wedding, there were only civilians there and most of them died because the Mokha hospital is closed because of supply -- no drugs, no fuel, no electricity, no nothing, so the staff left," Boucenine said. The provincial capital of Taiz was inaccessible due to ongoing fighting. □



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“Sulfate-Free” means that the product does not contain any wash active substances that contain Sulfate compounds such as Sodium Lauryl Sulfate, Amonium Lauryl Sulfate or Sodium Laureth Sulfate.

There are several benefits to switching to this new collection of shampoo and conditioners. As explained by quality control & R&D manager Josette Schwengle, “Instead of Sulfates we added high quality ingredients which will clean and nourish your scalp and hair in a healthy way. They are gentler to the eyes, than regular shampoos & conditioners. If you have allergies, eczema, or a dry and/or irritating scalp, it is recommendable to switch to a Sulfate-Free shampoo and conditioner. And if you love to color your hair, you will love these shampoos and conditioners too, because they are mild and will prolong the color of your hair. Our new hair care collection is not only Sulfate-Free but also Paraben-Free.”



Depending on their specific needs, clients can choose from three different shampoo and conditioner varieties of this new collection: Full Body for Normal Hair, Nourish for Dry & Damaged Hair, and Color Viva for Color Treated Hair. Of course, like most of Aruba Aloe's products, this enhanced and Sulfate-Free collection contains pure Aloe Vera Gel. So not only is the collection gentle on the hair and scalp, but it is also nourishing and hydrating. This new collection is now available in all Aruba Aloe stores.

Aruba Aloe is known both locally and abroad for its original collections of body, sun and hair care products made from the finest ingredients, including 100% Pure Aloe Vera Gel from Aruba. As always, Aruba Aloe invites both locals and tourists to visit its factory in Hato to take a tour and learn more about the rich history of aloe cultivation and processing on Aruba.

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Brazil's economy plunging; no relief in sight

BRAD BROOKS
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — A currency hitting historic lows. Unemployment at a five-year peak. Consumer spending in the dumps, and a grinding political crisis that's frozen leaders' ability to push through Congress measures to jumpstart a moribund economy. The news keeps getting worse for the once-ballyhooed Brazilian economy, compounding the delicate political situation for President Dilma Rousseff, who polls show is the nation's most unpopular president since the 1985 return to democracy. Rousseff is trying to fight off widespread calls for her impeachment or resignation, which gives her scant political capital to force austerity measures through Congress to halt across-the-board economic hemorrhaging. Brazil's woes were stoked by the recent years' collapse in commodity prices, due largely to lessening demand from China's slowing economy. Economists also blame failure to reform taxes and labor markets over the past decade of good times, and the collapse of



A fruit vendor counts his Real bills at a street market in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Now, Brazilians are suddenly confronting rapidly rising prices on everything from cosmetics to cell phones to medicine to the most basic of consumables.

(AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

an economic model that relied on domestic consumption. "It wasn't just that Brazil consumed all its commodity income it took in from 2007 to 2011, it's that it consumed all of it plus more by borrowing overseas," said Neil Shearing, the New York-based chief emerging markets economist for Capital Economics. Not preparing itself for lean

years while its economy expanded created an "ugly toxic mix." "Add on top of the economic train wreck a political train wreck, and the fact that the government can't push through Congress the fiscal belt-tightening measures it needs to create growth," Shearing said. That's largely why Brazil lost its investment-grade status

when Standard & Poor's downgraded the nation's sovereign debt this month. Stockholders are suffering too: Companies listed on Brazil's main Bovespa stock market have lost \$1 trillion in value since early 2011. Politically, Rousseff is increasingly isolated amid the worst graft case the nation has yet seen. Prosecutors say top construction and engineering firms paid over \$2 billion in bribes to some politicians and executives of state-run oil company Petrobras in exchange for inflated contracts during a period when Rousseff herself was the company's chairwoman. While she faces no formal accusations of wrongdoing, the leader of the lower house already faces corruption charges and the head of the Senate is under investigation, adding to legislative gridlock. The scandal has paralyzed Petrobras, long the pride of Brazilian enterprise and the company counted on to catapult the nation to developed-world status by tapping into vast offshore oil reserves discovered in recent years, undersea riches it's been unable to make good on. □

FBI arrests ten police in Puerto Rico crackdown

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The FBI on Tuesday arrested 10 Puerto Rico police officers accused of stealing drugs and cash, planting evidence and taking bribes, prompting the U.S. territory's police chief to pledge a widespread restructuring of his department as it struggles to crack down on corruption. The suspects, members of the police anti-drug units, include a lieutenant and a sergeant. FBI officials said they expect further arrests in the case, part of an ongoing series of probes into the troubled department. "These officers used their badges and abused their authority," said U.S. Attorney Rosa Emilia Rodriguez. "What appeared to be a legitimate police operation was nothing else but an organized criminal act." Federal prosecutors said the suspects, working out of the main police precinct, divvied up some \$175,000 in proceeds generated from stealing drugs and cash during legal and illegal raids. In one instance, authorities said some of the suspects released a federal drug-trafficking fugitive in exchange for two high-powered rifles. Prosecutors also said they are investigating whether some people arrested by the accused officers are currently in jail as a result of false testimony or planted evidence. Police Chief Jose Caldero said he will restructure the department's 16 anti-narcotics units and require those in them to undergo polygraph tests, a first for the island's police agency. There are currently 320 officers in those divisions. □

2 Haiti Senate seats decided; 18 go to runoffs

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Two candidates won election to Haiti's Senate and eight gained seats in the lower house in the first round of legislative elections last month, elections authorities announced in the hemisphere's poorest country. Eighteen more seats in the 30-member Senate and the remaining 111 spots in the Chamber of Deputies

are to be decided in runoff elections Oct. 25, excluding those districts where first-round voting needs to be redone due to violent incidents and other irregularities. Voters will also be asked to choose a new president that day, but another round on Dec. 27 is expected since no candidate is likely to win an outright majority. After weeks of delay, Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council posted the results of the

Aug. 9 legislative elections on its website late Sunday. The site was down for part of the day Monday. Last month's voting was marred by disorganization, intimidation and other irregularities in a number of districts, but monitors with the Organization of American States said it was not enough to invalidate results. Veteran lawmaker Youri Latortue and political newcomer Jean Renel Senatus

won Senate seats in the first round. Latortue, leader of the Haiti in Action party, will represent the Artibonite region in the Senate, where he has held seats previously. He has long been a political powerbroker in Haiti and is an adviser to outgoing President Michel Martelly. Senatus was a high-profile chief prosecutor for Port-au-Prince until he was fired by Martelly's administration in 2012. □



At Sunset on Aruba:

Norman & Marva Celebrate Their 50th Wedding Anniversary!



PALM BEACH - Norman and Marva Novitz from Titusville, New Jersey, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the beautiful island of Aruba on September 13. They first fell in love with Aruba and the Aruban people on their 25th anniversary and have called Aruba their "second home" since then and visited every year. They marked the milestone in their lives with a beautiful sunset vow renewal on Eagle Beach by the famous fofoti tree, and were attended by their daughter and son-in-law, Devi LeClaire and Michael Wolf. The arrangements were coordinated by Robert Arenz of Dream Weddings Aruba. The Rev. Gregory Lyder performed their ceremony. Also speaking at their ceremony were their cousins, Randy and Barbara Fitzgerald. They were blessed to have a perfect sunset and family and friends to celebrate with them. A dinner party at Barefoot followed their vow renewal. Mr. and Mrs. Novitz own at the Marriott Ocean Club and visit Aruba every fall for 5 weeks. They travel extensively and have visited all seven continents, but Aruba will always be their special home away from home. □

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First Graduate With Honors From OGM Program at the University of Aruba



ORANJESTAD - On Friday August 21, Ms. Kimberly van Loon graduated with honors from the Bachelor

program Organization, Governance and Management (OGM). Ms. Van Loon proudly presented her thesis in front of the graduation committee and a mixed audience of family, students and lecturers of the University of Aruba in the Aula.

During her presentation Ms. Van Loon explained the importance of employees' perceptions on internal communication within a healthcare institution in Aruba. This significant, interesting and challenging topic gave an in-depth view of the internal communication and especially

of the different views that management and employees experienced. The main findings of the research showed that vertical communication is generally perceived as more challenging than horizontal communication. Reasons for this have to do with bureaucracy, ineffective use of communication instruments and differences in culture of the employees. Horizontal communication is generally perceived positively, with the exception of certain challenges predominantly regarding culture such as linguistics, mannerism like how to ad-



dress colleagues and how employees communicate with each other. The student re-worked theories of organizational communication into tailored recommendations for the organization under study. The added value of the recommendations in the research is that the suggestions for improvement of internal communication stem directly from the employees in the organization, and are also connected to different theories. The University of Aruba, in

particular the Department of Organization, Governance and Management is very proud of this excellent graduate and wishes her success with her professional career and future endeavors. For more information on the OGM program visit the website of the University of Aruba at <http://www.ua.aw/OGM> and the Facebook Page of OGM <https://www.facebook.com/pages/University-of-Aruba-OGM-Organization-Governance-Management-FAS/>



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Loyal Visitors Honored at the Marriott Surf Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Marriott Surf Club as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive

years. The honorees were Mr. John and Mrs. Linda Mc Elroy from Hagerstown, Maryland, and Mr. Dennis Hubert from Honesdale, Pennsylvania. All the honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Surf Club, and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches – especially snor-

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keling at Malmok's beach, the restaurants and the safety. They say Aruba feels like a second home, the associates at the Mar-

riott Surf Club are like family to them, and the Resort is their home away from home. The certificates were presented by Mr.

Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jenny Boekhoudt representing the Marriott Surf Club. □

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Jason and Jennifer Zbell honored at the Divi All Inclusive



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at the Divi All-inclusive

Aruba, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.



The honorees were Mr. Jason and Mrs. Jennifer Zbell from Naugatuck, Connecticut. Jason and Jennifer love Aruba very much because of the friendly Aruban people, the facilities at the Divi Resorts, the weather, the beaches and the restaurants. They say they love to meet every year with their lovely Aruban friends from the Divi who treats them like family. The certificate was

presented by Mr. Ernest Giel and Ms. Dana Arendsz representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Francis Ridderstap and staff members of the Divi All-inclusive Beach Resort. □



Venus Williams wins 700th match of career at Wuhan Open

WUHAN, China (AP) — Venus Williams earned the 700th victory of her career Tuesday by beating German qualifier Julia Goerges 6-4, 6-3 in the second round of Wuhan Open.

Williams is a seven-time major champion who won her last Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2008. Defending champion Petra Kvitová also advanced, beating Daria Gavrilova of Russia 6-3, 4-6, 7-5. Kvitová will next face 15th-seeded Roberta Vinci in the third round.

Earlier, Anna Karolina Schmiedlova beat a top-20 player for only the third time in her career when she defeated fourth-seeded Caroline Wozniacki 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (6). Schmiedlova will next meet Kristina Mladenovic, who beat 14th-seeded Madison Keys of the United States 7-5, 1-6, 6-2.

Ana Ivanovic advanced with a 6-0, 6-3 win over Madison Brengle. The ninth-seeded Ivanovic has only dropped seven games in two matches.

Also, Belinda Bencic of Switzerland retired from her match against Camila Giorgi of Italy with a left leg injury. Bencic, who was coming off a loss to Agnieszka Radwanska in the Tokyo Pan Pacific final on Sunday, retired after dropping the first set 6-2.

Victoria Azarenka also limped off and retired after she was broken in the second set by Johanna Konta and was trailing 6-4, 1-0 in her third round match.

In the final match of the day, top-seeded Simona Halep beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 6-1. □

NO SURE THING



Woods and Mickelson no shoo-ins for Ryder Cup team

In this Aug. 11, 2015, file photo, Tiger Woods watches his shot on the second hole during a practice round for the PGA Championship golf tournament at Whistling Straits in Haven, Wis.

Associated Press
Page 18

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Woods and Mickelson no Ryder Cup certainties

BRIAN HALL

Associated Press

CHASKA, Minn. (AP) — The PGA of America has altered its approach to the Ryder Cup with the tournament returning to the U.S. in 2016 at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Minnesota. Perhaps the biggest change could be a team without Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson.

Captain Davis Love III said it's hard to envision a U.S. team without Woods or Mickelson, but the two are no longer certainties as the Americans try to solve the European stranglehold on the Ryder Cup.

Woods is ranked 299th in the world and recently underwent another back surgery. Mickelson is ranked 23rd, but hasn't won since the British Open in 2013.

"It would be hard to imagine," Love said Tuesday at a year-out press conference at Hazeltine. "They're all my teammates that I've played with. We're all getting older."

The 2016 Ryder Cup is Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 at Hazeltine in suburban Chaska, the site of the PGA Championship in 2002 and 2009.

Europe extended its dominance with a win in 2014 at Gleneagles. The U.S.



Phil Mickelson watches his tee shot on the first hole during the second round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Conway Farms Golf Club, Friday, Sept. 18, 2015, in Lake Forest, Ill.

Associated Press

has won the cup four times since 1985. Woods and Mickelson have been mainstays on those teams. Mickelson's first Ryder Cup appearance was in 1995, followed by Woods' debut in 1997.

Woods' recent back surgery ended his 2015 season. Mickelson was chosen for the upcoming President's Cup by captain Jay Haas, despite lacking the points to qualify.

"Phil gets on a roll about

every other year now, so maybe next year," Love said. "I mean, his off year is really, really good. I think, in talking to him, he's excited about playing. He's not done yet. He wants to make this next team. If he doesn't make the team, he's going to be involved and I know he doesn't want to work for me. I think he'd rather play for me."

"So, I have a feeling he's going to be strong and motivated to make the next

team, and obviously Tiger wants to get healthy and play."

Mickelson spoke out during the last Ryder Cup captained by Tom Watson and the Americans have tried to find a new way to break their losing ways.

The PGA America assembled past captains and players -- including Love, Woods and Mickelson -- to alter the approach.


"We've had a lot of losing seasons in a row and we

need to throw the game plan away and start over," Love said. "We need a new front office. We need a new attitude. The PGA of America, they rode home after losing again over in Gleneagles and they were not happy about it."

Love said he's consulted Woods, Mickelson, Steve Stricker and Jim Furyk, along with former captains Tom Kite, Lanny Wadkins, Ben Crenshaw and Dave Stockton.

Love will be leading a team built on the young players like Jordan Spieth and Rickie Fowler. Woods and Mickelson will have 2016 to show they can add to their Ryder Cup resumes.

"They're just two of a lot of players that have stressed to me that they want to play on a winning Ryder Cup team," Love said. "The tone has changed a little bit on our side. Guys aren't saying, 'I want to make your team.' They're saying, 'I want to play on a winning Ryder Cup team.' They're not looking at it as my team, they want to play on a winning U.S. team. So, Tiger, Phil, Webb Simpson, Chris Kirk, all those guys, they're excited about making this team and making it a winning team." □



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Cards beat Bucs to move closer to NL Central title

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Matt Carpenter raced home to break a scoreless tie in the ninth inning when two Pittsburgh Pirates outfielders mishandled Jon Jay's single, and Mark Reynolds followed with a two-run homer to lift the banged-up St. Louis Cardinals to a 3-0 win on Monday.

The Cardinals reduced their magic number to clinch a third straight NL Central title to two after getting to Pittsburgh closer Mark Melancon (3-2). St. Louis can wrap up the division with a victory at Pittsburgh on Tuesday.

In the bottom of the seventh, Cardinals outfielder Stephen Piscotty was carted off the field following a violent collision with teammate Peter Bourjos. The team said Piscotty was taken to the hospital with a head confusion, and tests were negative. He will be held overnight for observation.

Jonathan Broxton (4-5) earned the win, and Trevor Rosenthal got three outs for his 48th save.

CUBS 1, ROYALS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Pinch-hitter Chris Denorfia led off the 11th inning with a home run, lifting the Cubs to the victory.

Denorfia drove the first pitch from Miguel Almonte (0-2) into the left-field bleacher for the Cubs' MLB-leading 13th walk-off victory of the season. It was Denorfia's third homer of the season.

Fernando Rodney (2-0) pitched a scoreless top of the 11th to get the win. The homer ended a pitch-

er's duel that was a make-up of a May 30 rainout. Both teams combined for eight hits.

GIANTS 3, DODGERS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Zack Greinke and the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers were denied a playoff-clinching party for at least another day, losing to the Giants on pinch-hitter Alejandro De Aza's 12th-inning sacrifice fly.

Andre Ethier hit a tying groundout in the top of the ninth, then the rivals needed three more innings to decide this one. With the Dodgers employing a five-man infield, De Aza hit a fly to left against Adam Liberatore for a victory that prevented San Francisco from being eliminated from the pennant race.

Yimi Garcia (3-5) took the loss.

Los Angeles lost its fourth straight game after a weekend sweep at Colorado and is five games ahead of the Giants with six to play.

Greinke, who had his last turn skipped as he nursed a tender right calf, had his five-start winning streak broken dating to an Aug. 22 defeat at Houston.

NATIONALS 5, REDS 1

WASHINGTON (AP) — On another eventful afternoon at Nationals Park, Washington right-hander Max Scherzer came within five outs of his second no-hitter of the season hours after closer Jonathan Papelbon was suspended for fighting with Bryce Harper a day earlier.

Scherzer (13-12) did not allow a hit until Tucker Barnhart singled to left field on

a 1-2 count with one out in the eighth. That came on Scherzer's 105th pitch, and fans at the stadium rose to salute the right-hander with a standing ovation. To that point, the Reds only had three baserunners, on walks in the first, third and seventh innings. □



St. Louis Cardinals' Mark Reynolds (12) celebrates with teammates Jon Jay, left rear, and Jason Heyward (22) after hitting a pinch hit two-run home run off Pittsburgh Pirates relief pitcher Mark Melancon in the ninth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Monday, Sept. 28, 2015.

Associated Press



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Carter, McCullers lead Astros to 3-2 win over Mariners

The Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Chris Carter drove in the go-ahead run with Houston's third solo homer, rookie Lance McCullers pitched effectively into the seventh inning and the Astros enhanced their position in a crowded American League playoff race.

Houston moved within 1 1/2 games of first-place Texas in the AL West and maintained its slim lead in the chase for the second playoff wild card. The Rangers lost 7-4 at home to the Detroit Tigers.

Carter broke 2-all tie in the seventh with his 23rd home run, a two-out shot to left off Danny Farquhar (1-6).

McCullers (6-7) allowed two runs and four hits in six-plus innings. He struck out seven and walked two, including a free pass to start the seventh.

Luke Gregerson struck out Nelson Cruz and Robinson Cano in the ninth for his 30th save.

ANGELS 5, ATHLETICS 4

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Pinch-hitter David Murphy drove a bases-loaded single into left field to end it, and the Los Angeles Angels kept the pressure on in the American League wild-card race with their sixth consecutive victory.

Albert Pujols tied it with his 558th career homer in the sixth inning for the Angels, who have won nine of 11 during their MLB-best 17-8 performance in September.

Johnny Giavotella and Erick Aybar had early run-scoring doubles as the



Seattle Mariners right fielder Brad Miller is unable get to a ground-rule double hit down the line by Houston Astros' George Springer in the eighth inning of a baseball game, Monday, Sept. 28, 2015, in Seattle. The Astros won 3-2.

Associated Press

Angels (82-74) remained a half-game behind the Houston Astros (83-74), who won at Seattle, and one game ahead of the Minnesota Twins (81-75), who beat Cleveland.

Los Angeles also closed within just two games of the AL West-leading Rangers, who lost to Detroit. The Angels finish the season with four games at Texas.

TWINS 4, INDIANS 2

CLEVELAND (AP) — Emergency starter Tommy Milone replaced an ill Phil Hughes and pitched Minnesota to a big win for its wild-card playoff chances. Hughes, one of several Twins players hit with a virus that has spread throughout the team, was scratched

about 4 hours before the game. Milone (9-5), removed from the rotation two weeks ago, stepped in and allowed two runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Minnesota (81-75) began the day trailing Houston by 1 1/2 games in the race for the second American League wild card. The Astros played later in Seattle. Cleveland (77-78) was four games behind the Astros before its costly defeat. Kevin Jepsen worked the ninth for his 14th save.

Corey Kluber (8-16) allowed four runs in six innings and lost to Minnesota for the second time in a week.

RANGERS 7, TIGERS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Justin Verlander allowed

one run in six innings, and Tyler Collins' three-run home run sparked a five-run fifth inning as Detroit handed the Rangers their third straight loss.

Verlander (5-8) gave up a leadoff homer to former Detroit teammate Prince Fielder in the fourth. He allowed six hits and walked two while striking out five. Collins pulled his fourth homer of the season down the right field line to break a 1-1 tie.

The homer followed a leadoff single by Dixon Machado and a double by Anthony Gose.

Colby Lewis (17-9) allowed six runs on 10 hits in 4 2-3 innings, his shortest outing since June 5.

It's Texas' longest losing streak since mid-August.

BLUE JAYS 4, ORIOLES 3

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Blue Jays edged closer to clinching the AL East title, getting a homer from Edwin Encarnacion and scoring a ninth-inning run to secure a comeback victory over the Orioles.

Toronto's fifth straight victory, coupled with the Yankees' loss to Boston, reduced the Blue Jays' magic number for securing the division to two.

After scoring twice in the eighth to pull even, the Blue Jays got the decisive run against Brad Brach (5-3). Dioner Navarro led off with a single, and was replaced by Dalton Pompey, who advanced on a single. After a sacrifice moved the runners up, Pompey scored when Justin Smoak hit a dribbler to first and Chris

Davis threw wildly to the plate.

Brett Cecil (5-5) pitched one inning and Roberto Osuna got two outs for this 20th save.

Ryan Flaherty hit a three-run homer for the Orioles, who have lost four straight.

RED SOX 5, YANKEES 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Eduardo Rodriguez became the first Red Sox rookie left-hander to win 10 games in 43 years, and Boston slowed the Yankees' march toward a postseason berth.

The Yankees had a chance to clinch their first playoff appearance since 2012 with a win — what would've been their 10,000th franchise victory — and losses by Minnesota, Texas and the Angels.

But scoreboard watching was rendered unnecessary when Travis Shaw and Jackie Bradley Jr. each hit a two-run homer off Ivan Nova (6-10). New York managed little offense after Alex Rodriguez's sacrifice fly in the first.

New York dropped five games behind Toronto in the AL East with six to play. Eduardo Rodriguez (10-6) pitched six innings while supplanting John Curtis, who went 11-8 in 1972, as the most recent Boston rookie lefty to reach 10 wins.

In other AL games it was Boston 5, N.Y. Yankees 1; Toronto 4, Baltimore 3; Minnesota 4, Cleveland 2; Detroit 7, Texas 4; Chicago Cubs 1, Kansas City 0, 11 innings; L.A. Angels 5, Oakland 4; and Houston 3, Seattle 2. □

Charles runs for 3 tds, but Chiefs fall to Packers 38-28

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
AP SPORTS WRITER

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) -- This time, a sluggish start did in the Kansas City Chiefs. A week after a stunning, last-minute loss at home to Denver, Jamaal Charles rushed for three touchdowns, including two in a respectable fourth-quarter effort for the Chiefs on the road. Kansas City still lost 38-28 to Green Bay on Monday night, overwhelmed by

touchdown reception late in the second quarter for a 17-point lead at the break. "I just think we're scratching the surface a little bit," Rodgers said about the high-scoring offense. Charles' 7-yard TD with 1:25 left got the Chiefs within 10. But the end result was the same for Kansas City, which lost its second straight. On defense, the Packers controlled the line of scrimmage when it counted

When asked, Reid said he would not consider a change at quarterback. "I'll watch the tape on that," he said when asked to evaluate Smith's night. "That's my responsibility, though, whatever, the whole thing here, offensively and defensively. It's my responsibility." Under pressure near his own end zone, Smith also threw an interception to Sam Shields at the Chiefs

19 with about 7 minutes left in the third quarter. Shields returned it 15 yards, and on the next play, Rodgers found Cobb for a 4-yard touchdown and a 31-7 lead. Rodgers and Cobb hooked up for another 4-yard scoring pass in the fourth. With the score, Rodgers set the franchise record with his fourth career game of at least five touchdown passes.

Kansas City stopped its long streak of no touchdown receptions by a receiver when Jeremy Maclin hauled in a 5-yard TD pass with 56 seconds left in the third quarter to get the Chiefs within 31-14. It was the first touchdown pass caught by a Chiefs receiver since Donnie Avery had a 79-yard catch-and-run against the Indianapolis Colts in a wild card game on Jan. 4, 2014. □



Green Bay Packers' Ty Montgomery catches a touchdown pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Kansas City Chiefs on Monday, Sept. 28, 2015, in Green Bay, Wis. Associated Press

quarterback Aaron Rodgers' five touchdown passes and the Packers' pass rush. "Green Bay did a nice job," said a curt Chiefs coach Andy Reid. The message came through loud and clear in the locker room for the Chiefs (1-2). "This is not acceptable, and coach Andy Reid is not happy," linebacker Derrick Johnson said. Rodgers dissected another defense on a national stage, going 24 of 35 for 333 yards. Randall Cobb caught three touchdown passes. Rodgers led the Packers (3-0) on two successful first-quarter drives that ended with scoring passes to Cobb and rookie Ty Montgomery. He found James Jones for a 27-yard

and got to Alex Smith for seven sacks. Smith finished 24 of 40 for 290 yards and a touchdown. But the first half was brutal, when Smith was 2 of 7 for 39 yards.

"Forcing (them) to punt that first half was pretty boring, being on the sideline," Packers linebacker Clay Matthews said. "But, hopefully, this is just an indication of where we're headed as a defense."



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Eggs and Butter

By: Dr Carlos Viana

A favorite dish of mine in a Japanese restaurant is a raw quail egg yolk on sea urchin eggs. A variable "cholesterol bomb", one of my colleagues called. Notice that the Japanese sushi chef throws away the white of the egg. A good thing, since raw egg whites should never be consumed. Egg whites contain substances that remove vitamins from your body and could possibly inhibit digestion of protein, and affect growth. Cooking the egg for just a few minutes destroys these and other harmful compounds.

The reason a myth has survived for years about the dangers of eating egg yolks is because one egg yolk contains about 213 milligrams of cholesterol. This is about the same amount as my other favorite food, olive oil that is also loaded with cholesterol. However, any clinical nutritionist will tell you that the different types of cholesterol are not the same. Olive oil, like egg yolks, both have a high content of monounsaturated fatty acids and antioxidative substances. In lay terms, both of these great foods are rich in HDL, the "good" cholesterol.

If you enjoy the convenience of taking a multivitamin to be sure you're getting enough nutrients, you should consider including soft boiled or poached eggs in your diet. They come close to having everything a natural multivitamin provides. Eggs

are low in sodium and are a good source of protein, riboflavin, Vitamin B12, Pantothenic acid, phosphorus, and selenium. Additionally, there are amino acids, the building blocks for muscle and a great source of lecithin.

In fact, the word "lecithin," comes from the Greek word "lekithos" meaning "egg yolk". Other foods that contain lecithin include: butter, peanuts, cauliflower, tomatoes, banana, oranges, lentils, oats, barley, corn, sesame seeds, flax seeds, whole wheat and human breast milk.

Notice I said, butter, not margarine. Actually, if you are worried about cholesterol, according to a Harvard Medical study, margarine may increase heart disease in women by 53% over eating the same amount of butter. Margarine contains up to 45 percent of artificially created unhealthy trans-fats.

No more fattening than margarine, butter has been in the diet for thousands of years so our bodies are used to digesting it. Besides lecithin, butter is a rich source of easily absorbed vitamin A, E, K, D and selenium, a powerful antioxidant. We use salt free to eliminate the harmful processed salt which is used as a preservative to help the butter last longer on the shelf. If you like the taste of salt, try adding your own natural sea salt, which still has some of the minerals left and is not chemically processed.

Even better is Clarified But-

ter or "Ghee" a form of butter found in the Indian section of your supermarket. Ghee can be made easily at home and is butter which has the milk solids or fat removed. It has a high smoke point and is a safer, healthier choice for cooking than other fats or oils.

With people afraid to eat egg yolks, the richest source of choline found in modern diets comes from an additive called lecithin. Lecithin is most often added to foods as an emulsifier which helps keeps food blended. As a dietary supplement, I consider lecithin to be essential for everyone. In our clinic I see patient's daily suffering from fatigue, insomnia, kidney and bladder problems, high cholesterol levels, nerve-muscle problems, including cardiovascular disease, infertility, liver and gallbladder problems, anemia, and high blood pressure. Lecithin in your body keeps your cells functioning properly, allows your nerves to communicate with your muscles; and prevent the build-up of homocysteine in your blood. Homocysteine is a harmful compound that is associated with cardiovascular disease and osteoporosis. Since lecithin has fat-modifying effects, lecithin helps prevent fatty build-up in the liver.

An important part of lecithin is choline. Since the 1930s, research has shown that choline is a component of every human cell. Lecithin can help control cholesterol levels. Because of its role in nerve-muscle function, lecithin has been used to help improve neuromuscular function in Alzheimer's disease and plays a critical

role in memory functions and learning difficulties.

Lecithin supplementation is very important to babies, even while still in the womb. Dietary deficiency of lecithin can provoke respiratory distress in newborns, and failure to thrive. In very young babies a continuing deficiency can produce impaired growth, and abnormalities in bone formation. Medical data on lecithin suggests that simply supplementing the diets of pregnant and nursing women with lecithin could affect their children's lifelong learning and memory. In adults, lecithin can boost cognitive function, diminish age-related memory decline, and reduce the brain's vulnerability to toxic substances.

Eggs are nutritious. They're nutrient dense that means that eggs provide a good proportion of needed nutrients for the calories they provide. Eating nutrient-dense foods is particularly important for children as well as older adults because their energy needs are less but their nutrient needs are high. Nutrient density is also important for anyone of any age who is trying to lose weight. One of the reasons for eating eggs is lecithin and supplementing your diet with a quality lecithin supplement give us a healthy boost. By the way, I recommend most of my patients take individual, natural supplements, like Vitamin C, Magnesium, Zinc and always Lecithin. However, if you prefer taking a multivitamin, make sure you are using a natural one. There is a difference between quality food based nutrients and cheaper, syn-

thetic or artificial vitamins, which may also include fillers, dyes and preservatives. Get The Point! Eggs and butter do not increase heart disease risk in most people. A Harvard School of Public Health study found that healthy adults were able to eat an egg a day without increasing their risk of heart disease or stroke. Want help with a cholesterol problem or a healthier gall bladder, liver, brain or to improve the learning ability of your child? Come in so we can tailor a health program to your specific needs.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in China; a US Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), an Addiction Professional (C.Ad.), Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist specializing in Age Management, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA HEALING CENTER, Kibaima 7, St Cruz TEL: 585-1270 Web Site: www.vianaheal.com

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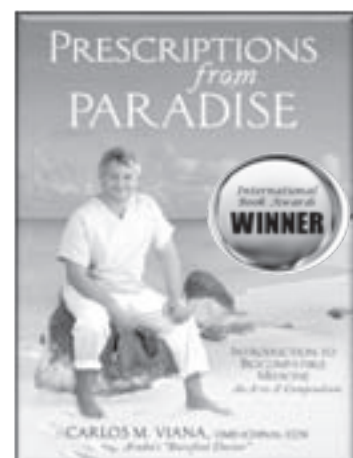
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Google unveils Nexus phones with 'Marshmallow' flavor

MICHAEL LIETKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Google is countering the release of Apple's latest iPhones with two devices running on a new version of Android software designed to steer and document even more of its users' lives.

The Nexus 6P and Nexus 5X unveiled Tuesday are the first smartphones sold with an Android upgrade called "Marshmallow." It features changes that will give expanded powers to Android's personal assistant, Google Now, so it can explore the information that people call up in the mobile applications. Previously, Google Now learned about its users' interests and daily habits by analyzing search requests and scanning information contained in emails.

The Marshmallow version of Android enables users to summon Google Now to scan whatever content might be on a

mobile device's screen so it can present pertinent information about the topic of a text, a song, a video clip or an article.

The new Android feature, called "Now on Tap," will be activated by holding down the device's home button or speaking, "OK Google," into the microphone. That action will prompt Now on Tap to scan the screen in an attempt to figure out how to be the most helpful. Or, if speaking, users can just say what they are seeking, such as "Who sings this?"

"In a multiscreen world, it is even more important for Google to do the hard work so the experience is simple and delightful for the users," Google CEO Sundar Pichai said.

Apple's new operating system also has programmed the iPhone's Siri assistant to be more intuitive so it can anticipate what the user

Google uses its Nexus line of phones to showcase how the company would like Android to be set up. Most phone makers, though, still take advantage of the freedom that Google gives them to alter Android, although the free software usually is still set up to drive traffic to Google's search engine,

past few years will receive a the option to install a free upgrade beginning next week.

The debut of the latest Nexus phones underscores the steadily intensifying rivalry between Google and Apple as they duel for consumers' loyalty in the increasingly important mobile device market.

apiece, the same price that Google has been charging for the original Chromecast, which has won over a lot of households.

Google disclosed Tuesday that more than 20 million of the Chromecast video devices have been sold since the gadget's debut two years ago.

Google also provided a peek at a tablet called the Pixel C that is aimed at consumers and workers who want a device that can accommodate a lot of typing. The \$499 tablet comes with a 10-inch display screen an attachable \$149 keyboard that transforms the device into the equivalent of a laptop, when needed. Apple will begin selling a similar model of its pioneering iPad with a 13-inch screen later this fall. Prices start at \$799 for that iPad and \$169 for the keyboard.

Apple got a head start on Google with the release of its



Dave Burke, vice president of engineering at Google, speaks about the new Google Nexus 6P during an event on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

might want or need before being explicitly asked. Google began taking pre-orders for the Nexus phones in the U.S., United Kingdom, Ireland and Japan on Tuesday with prices for the 6P starting at \$499 and \$379 for the 5X with no commitment to a wireless contract required. They are expected to start shipping by mid-October. The Nexus phones are undercutting Apple, which sells the iPhone 6s for \$649 and the 6s Plus for \$749 without a subsidy from a wireless carrier.

YouTube video site and other digital services.

The Nexus phones also feature better cameras than previous models, matching similar upgrades that Apple just made to its iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus.

The Nexus 6P has a 5.7-inch screen, slightly larger than the iPhone 6s Plus. The Nexus 5X has a 5.2-inch screen.

But it won't be necessary to have a Nexus phone to get Marshmallow. People who own an Android phone released in the

The battle also encompasses tablets and is starting to spill over into the living room as both companies introduce devices that help people watch Internet video on their TVs and listen to online music through their speakers.

Besides its Nexus phones, Google also began selling upgrades to its Chromecast video-streaming device and a new Chromecast model that can be plugged into speakers to play music from a phone or an Internet service. The devices will sell for \$35

newest iPhones last week. More than 13 million of the iPhone 6s and iPhone 6s Plus were sold during their first three days on the market, according to Apple, the strongest debut for the device yet.

Although iPhones tend to generate more excitement and longer lines when they are released, far more smartphones run on Android. More than 1.4 billion devices worldwide are now powered by Android, up from 1 billion a year ago, according to Google. □

Health care stocks push S&P to first gain in six days

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A rebound in the health care sector helped steady stocks on Tuesday, pushing the Standard & Poor's 500 index to its first gain in six days.

Drugmakers including Edwards Lifesciences and Medtronic were among the biggest gainers as the industry group rebounded

thought have hurt the market. Investors are also preoccupied with the outlook for U.S. interest rates. Federal Reserve policymakers have said they will likely raise interest rates before the end of the year.

Some investors see a rate increase as a vote of confidence in the U.S. economy. Others think it would be a mistake to raise borrowing costs just as the

third quarter.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 47.24 points, or 0.6 percent, to 16,049.13. The Nasdaq composite dropped 26.65 points, or 0.6 percent, to 4,517.32.

Biotechnology stocks have been a weak spot for the stock market recently. The sector has slumped on concern that lawmakers will seek to implement new

sell-off in biotech stocks given how sharply valuations have climbed in recent years.

"The biotech industry was concerning to us," Sorensen said. "It clearly had bubble-like characteristics with a lot of speculative money moving into it and a lot of IPOs."

Yahoo was among the stronger stocks on Tuesday.

The stock rose 66 cents, or 2.4 percent, to \$28.26 after the company said that it still planned to spin off its stake in China's Alibaba Group. Yahoo is moving ahead with the plan even though the IRS has yet to rule on the tax payments that the company could face from the gains on its initial investment.

Investors also got some good news on the economy from a report showing that American consumers were feeling more confident this month. The Conference Board, a business research group, said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index rose to 103 in September after surging in August to 101.3. The September reading was the highest since January.

The price of oil rose on expectations that the Energy Department will report a slowdown in U.S. crude production when it releases its monthly petroleum supply report Wednesday. U.S. crude rose 80 cents to close at \$45.23 a barrel in New York. Brent Crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, rose 89 cents to close at \$48.23 a barrel in London. □

Ralph Lauren to step down as CEO, Larsson fills void

A. D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Ralph Lauren is stepping down as CEO of the fashion and home decor empire that he founded nearly 50 years ago.

The New York-based company announced Tuesday that Stefan Larsson, who has been the global president of Gap's low-price Old Navy chain for three years, will succeed him. The change will be effective in November, and Larsson will report to Lauren who will continue to drive the company's vision and strategy as executive chairman and chief creative officer.

As global president of Old Navy for three years, Larsson has remade the business to be a bright spot in Gap's portfolio. Prior to his tenure at Old Navy, Larsson was part of an executive team at Swedish cheap chic fashion chain H&M for 15 years that increased annual revenue from \$3 billion to \$17 billion. During that time, H&M's operations grew to 44 countries from 12.

"My job is to think always about the future of our company and how to move it forward," Ralph Lauren said in a statement. "Stefan Larsson is exceptionally talented, and he will bring our company a fresh and exciting global perspective."

Ralph Lauren also announced that Jackwyn Nemerov, president and chief operating officer, will retire in November, at which time she will become an adviser to the company. The news comes as Ralph Lauren, which generated sales of \$7.5 billion in the latest fiscal year March 28, has been expanding its luxury business while beefing up its online presence. In the past two years, the company has added three new brands — Polo for Women, Polo Sport and Denim and Supply.

Gap Inc., based in San Francisco, said Jill Stanton would lead Old Navy in the interim while it searches for a permanent replacement. □



Specialist Peter Giacchi, right, works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A rebound in the health care sector helped steady stocks on Tuesday, pushing the Standard & Poor's 500 index to its first gain in six days. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

from a sharp slump the day before.

The gains for the overall market were small. Stocks flitted between modest gains and losses for most of the day before closing slightly higher.

The market remains close to its lows for the year and is set to close out September with its worst quarterly performance in four years. Concerns that China's economy is slowing more rapidly than previously

global economy is showing signs of flagging.

"The Fed is still, as it has been for over a year now, the number one thing that's overriding the market," said JJ Kinahan, chief strategist at TD Ameritrade. "There's just so much skittishness, people just don't have confidence."

The S&P 500 rose 2.32 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,884.09. The index slumped 50 points the day before and is down 8.7 percent for the

regulations to curb price hikes in the industry.

On Tuesday, the Nasdaq Biotechnology Index edged down 0.6 percent, its eighth straight day of losses. The index has slumped 27 percent from its peak in July, putting it in a bear market, Wall Street terminology for a drop of 20 percent or more.

Brad Sorensen, a director at the Schwab Center for Financial Research, said he wasn't surprised by the

Rolls Royce, American Airlines shutting down plant

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)

— Rolls Royce and American Airlines are shutting down a Texas plant that maintains and repairs aircraft engines, citing falling demand for the work.

The plant is operated by a 50-50 joint venture between the two companies and employs 600 people. Work will shift to

other locations, and the plant is expected to close by January.

American says it will provide job opportunities for the 500 plant workers who are represented by a union and will create more than 100 union jobs in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to offset the closure. American said Tuesday

that it accepted a Rolls Royce request to dissolve the joint venture and close the Texas Aero Engine Services plant in Fort Worth. The joint venture was created in 1998 to work on certain Rolls Royce engines used on American Airlines jets. However, work declined after American stopped

using one of the engine types in 2004, and work on another type is falling as American retires its Boeing 757 jets.

Shares of American's parent, American Airlines Group Inc., rose 62 cents to \$39.70 in midday trading Tuesday. The engine maker is a unit of Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC. □

VW details brands affected by scandal; fix due in Oct

BERLIN (AP) — Volkswagen's commercial vehicles and cars from its Spanish unit SEAT are among the 11 million fitted with a diesel engine that can cheat on emissions tests, the company said Tuesday. Volkswagen AG has admitted using a piece of engine software to cheat on

diesel car emissions tests in the U.S., where authorities say there are 482,000 such cars. The company says that up to 11 million vehicles worldwide were fitted with the engine in question. The company said it would present authorities with its "technical solutions and

measures" to fix the problem in October. Not all of the 11 million vehicles, however, would have had the software activated, according to new CEO Matthias Mueller. Details have emerged gradually of how many were made by which VW division. Guenther Schere-

lis, a spokesman for the commercial vehicles unit — which makes vans and pickups — on Tuesday confirmed that 1.8 million of its vehicles were affected. He didn't give further details. Spanish subsidiary SEAT said it fitted 700,000 vehicles with the EA 189 diesel engines in which Volkswa-

gen has said there are "discrepancies." SEAT said the cars were sold worldwide and it was seeking to determine how many were sold in each market. Also fitted with the suspect software were 5 million VW brand cars, 2.1 million Audis and 1.2 million Skodas. □

Glencore insists no solvency issues, shares spike higher

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Commodities group Glencore insisted Tuesday it's not facing solvency issues, a day after its shares fell by nearly a third amid concerns over its ability to service sky-high debts at a time when many commodity prices are at multi-year lows.

Its defense helped the company's stock recover 17 percent to close at 80 pence. That means it has recouped around a half of the losses suffered Monday, when Investec Securities warned that the company faces acute financial difficulties in light of a slide in commodity prices.

Responding to Investec's analysis that the company could end up "solely working to repay debt obligations" if commodity prices don't recover, Glencore said it has taken "proactive steps" to be able to withstand the weak commodity market and that the business as a whole is "operationally and financially robust."

"We have positive cash flow, good liquidity and



The Glencore headquarters in Baar, Switzerland is seen. Glencore insisted Tuesday it's not facing solvency issues, a day after its shares fell by nearly a third amid concerns over its ability to service sky-high debts at a time when many commodity prices are at multi-year lows.

(AP Photo/Keystone/Urs Flueeler)

absolutely no solvency issues," it said in a statement. "Glencore has no debt covenants and continues to retain strong lines of credit and secure access to funding thanks to long term relationships we have with the banks."

Earlier, Glencore found support from analysts at Citigroup, which recently helped the company raise cash through a placing of

shares with new and existing shareholders. They said the fall in Glencore's share price — about 80 percent from its high in May to this week's low — has been overdone and suggested the company could raise more money from the sale of investments than the \$2 billion it has penciled in.

The sales were part of a suite of measures Glencore announced this month,

which also included the suspension of dividend payments, to reduce debt by up to \$10.2 billion.

Even if its debt reduction plan plays out as expected, Glencore will be left with a debt mountain of around \$20 billion — more than its current market value of around \$16 billion.

China's economic downturn is at the heart of Glencore's difficulties. Mining

and commodities companies sought to take advantage of the country's booming growth at the turn of the decade, when many of the world's leading economies were struggling to emerge from the global financial crisis and ensuing recession.

Glencore said it remains "confident the medium and long-term fundamentals of the commodities we produce and market remain strong into the future."

Citi's analysts said Glencore's management should consider taking the company private "in the event the equity market continues to express its unwillingness to value the business fairly." Doing so, they added, would allow the management to undertake restructuring measures "easily and quickly" and to prepare for an eventual float of the industrial business.

Sentiment toward Glencore PLC, which is based in Switzerland but listed in London, has been fragile for months as investors worried over the impact of falling commodity prices. □

Amazon tests Uber-like service for package deliveries

MAE ANDERSON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is testing an Uber-like service for delivering its one-hour Prime Now packages that will enlist people to deliver packages for Amazon with their own cars. In order to offer the speedy deliveries Amazon will pay drivers \$18- to \$25-an hour via its new Amazon Flex program. The

move comes before the bustling busy November and December holiday shopping period.

And it comes as startup on-demand delivery services such as Postmates and Shyp proliferate. Ride-sharing service Uber itself has been rolling out a food delivery service UberEats. Drivers have to be at least 21 years old and pass a criminal background

check and motor vehicle records review.

People in Seattle can sign up now. The program is expected to roll out to New York City's Manhattan, Baltimore, Miami, Dallas, Austin, Chicago, Indianapolis, Atlanta, and Portland.

Amazon has been expanding its Prime Now service for members of its \$99 annual Prime loy-

alty program. The service delivers a wide range of items including paper towels, wine and beer (in Seattle only), chilled and frozen items like milk and ice cream and televisions and Kindle device in one or two hours. Two-hour delivery is free and one-hour delivery is available for \$7.99. It now offers Prime Now in 11 cities with across the country with plans to

roll out to more.

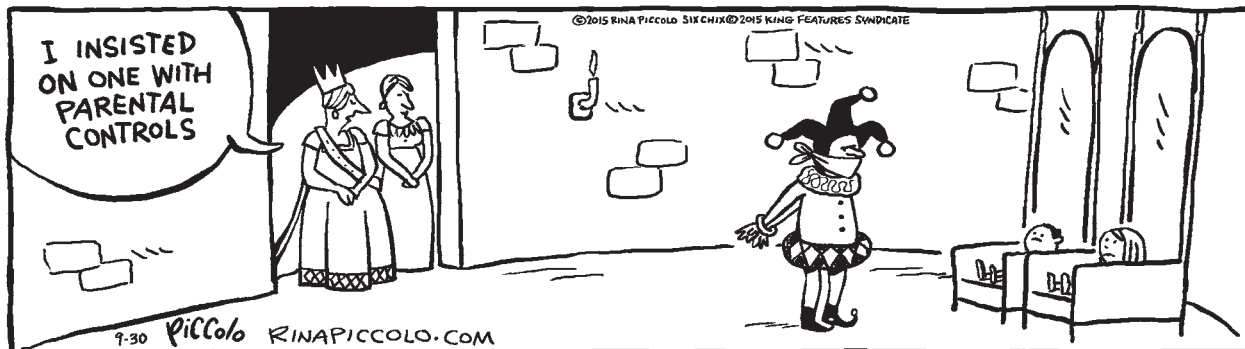
On its website, Amazon said currently it's only offering the program to drivers, but in the future it might let people bike or walk the packages to their destination.

Shares of Amazon.com Inc. fell \$11.41, or 2.3 percent, to \$492.65 in afternoon trading. Its shares are up 53 percent from a year ago. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



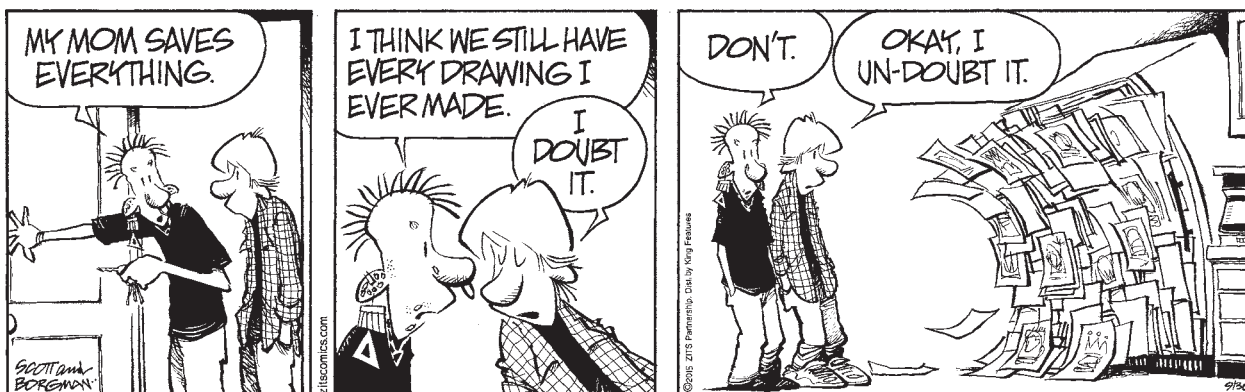
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5	9			8	3	2	4
1			2					6
2			4					7
4			5				7	
	7	2					1	
3			6			9		
7			1			2		
5			9		7			
	9	4			5			

Difficulty Level ★★

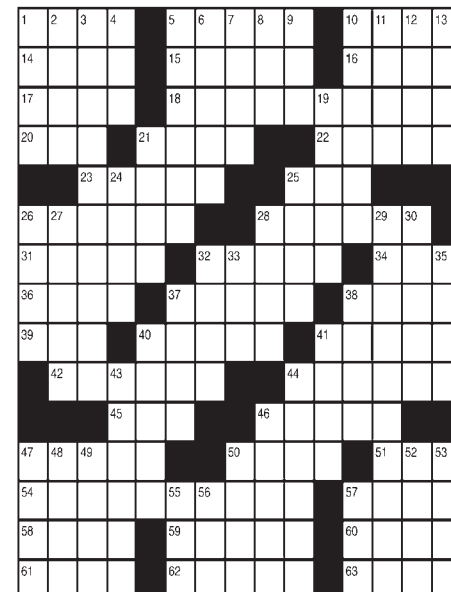
9/30

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

3	1	7	8	6	4	9	2	5
9	8	6	3	2	5	1	7	4
2	4	5	7	1	9	8	3	6
7	5	8	9	4	3	2	6	1
4	9	1	6	5	2	7	8	3
6	3	2	1	8	7	5	4	9
1	2	9	4	3	8	6	5	7
8	7	4	5	9	6	3	1	2
5	6	3	2	7	1	4	9	8

ACROSS

- 1 Deep mud
- 5 Winter jacket
- 10 ___ shirt; golfing attire, perhaps
- 14 ___ a test; passes easily
- 15 Standoffish
- 16 Restaurant chain
- 17 Jade and onyx
- 18 Entrepreneur
- 20 Marital words
- 21 Magazine title
- 22 Sheets of ice on the ocean
- 23 Thick-skinned horned beast, for short
- 25 One ___ kind; unique thing
- 26 Gambling house
- 28 Corkscrew's shape
- 31 Secret ___; spy
- 32 Glove material
- 34 Burst
- 36 Raise
- 37 Meat shunner
- 38 ___ on; goad
- 39 Respiratory bug
- 40 Mexican mister
- 41 Human trunk
- 42 Thrilled
- 44 Walks leisurely
- 45 Pelos's title: abbr.
- 46 ___ Rouge, LA
- 47 Beijing's nation
- 50 First, second or third
- 51 2000 pounds
- 54 People to be imitated
- 57 ___ one's time; wait
- 58 Know-it-___; smart alecks
- 59 Use foul language
- 60 Current letters
- 61 Clutter
- 62 Old Roman garments
- 63 Pupil's table



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

9/30/15

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

YOM	STABS	ITS	A
APES	CACAO	SOAR	
KENO	RUDDY	AUNT	
NUISANCES	IRKS		
RAPT	AAA		
ABBESS	BLUSHING		
FREES	MOOCH	DOE	
TOGS	SARGE	FLOE	
EKE	NUKES	TEENS	
RETAINED	COARSE		
DAB	WART		
SODA	ALLAROUND		
AGOG	TEASE	RUES	
URGE	HASTE	ETCH	
LESS	ENTER	SKY	

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DOWN

- 1 Three biblical wise men
- 2 Frosted
- 3 Truly sorry
- 4 Curvy letter
- 5 Actor Al ___
- 6 "The ___": film for John Wayne
- 7 Lasso, for one
- 8 Colorful pond fish
- 9 Fore and ___
- 10 Structural column
- 11 Toledo's state
- 12 Shed pounds
- 13 ___ for; selects
- 19 Attach
- 21 Slight coloring
- 24 Helpful clue
- 25 Unlock
- 26 Young cow
- 27 Nimble
- 28 Celebrity
- 29 Trainee
- 30 No good
- 32 Give, but expect back

- 33 Long, long ___
- 35 Major leaguers
- 37 Biden, for short
- 38 Mediocre
- 40 Water vapor
- 41 Carry
- 43 Actor James ___
- 44 Tumors
- 46 Light wood
- 47 Stuff
- 48 Donut's center
- 49 Problems
- 50 Titanic's trouble
- 52 Chances
- 53 Whiplash site
- 55 Sept.'s follower
- 56 Singing couple
- 57 Naughty

Classifieds

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3 BEDRM OV \$17K

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Despite pledges, climate action seen falling short

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The emissions pledges that countries have made ahead of a landmark conference in Paris have been a major boost to the slow-moving U.N. effort to fight climate change.

Less so for the climate itself. With pledges to cut or curb greenhouse gas pollution on the table from all major countries except India, researchers say the world is on track for more than 2 degrees C (4 F) of warming this century.

That's a level that scientists say could result in profound and irreversible impacts on the climate system, including flooding of coastal cities and island nations, disruptions to agriculture and drinking water, and the spread of diseases and the extinction of species.

However, climate experts say that it's not game over yet, as long as the Paris agreement includes ways to step up the pace of emissions cuts over time.

"Much of the underlying motivation for any emissions reduction agenda is that first steps lead to second steps, which lead to third steps. It is probably the case that first steps won't solve the problem, but they start the journey," said Chris Field, a candidate to become the next chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

An analysis presented Monday by Climate Interactive, a Washington-based climate research group, found the emissions targets presented by China, the U.S., the European Union, Brazil and other governments before the December conference in Paris leave the world on a



People walk on the Champs Elysees during the "day without cars", in Paris, France, Sunday, Sept. 27, 2015. Pretty but noisy Paris, its gracious Old World buildings blackened by exhaust fumes, is going car-less for a day. Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo presided over Sunday's "day without cars," two months before the city hosts the global summit on climate change.

Associated Press

path toward 3.5 degrees C (6.3 F) of warming compared with pre-industrial times. Temperatures have already warmed nearly 0.9 degrees C (1.6 F) from pre-industrial times to now, primarily because of emissions from the burning of coal, oil and gas, scientists say.

That means warming would be 1 C (1.8 F) lower than what would happen if governments did nothing, said Andrew Jones, co-founder of Climate Interactive, but well above the international goal of keeping warming below 2 degrees C (3.6 F), which is 1.1 degrees C (2 degrees F) from now.

Another analysis, by the European-based Climate Action Tracker, projects the world is on a path toward about 3 C (5.4 F) of warming. The difference is mainly due to guesswork on what happens after 2030, the end date for the current

pledges.

Niklas Hoehne, a researcher involved with Climate Action Tracker, said it's still possible to limit warming to 2 degrees C if global emissions peak after 2030 as long as they drop quickly after that.

"The question is whether it's a politically feasible pathway or not. That's a value judgment," he said.

Given the glacial pace of the U.N. climate talks in the past, the fact that just about all countries, rich and poor, are finally committing to do something about climate change is encouraging in itself, analysts say.

A diplomatic solution seemed far away after a hyped 2009 summit in Copenhagen ended with a weak, voluntary agreement that pushed a more ambitious deal down the road.

In Paris, the prospects of

that deal coming together appear much greater, with all major emitters putting down emissions targets in advance. India is expected to do so this week, as the last of the top 10 greenhouse gas emitters.

Still, it's unclear whether the deal will include the tools to bend the emissions curves in the future enough to avoid dangerous levels of warming.

Scientific models show that to stay below 2 degrees the world can emit no more than 1 trillion tons of carbon dioxide, a key global warming gas released when oil, coal and gas are burned for energy. At the current rate of emissions, that "carbon budget" will have been spent in three decades.

But instead of figuring out ways to divide that budget in a way that reflects each nation's historical responsibility for the problem, level

of development and other factors, each country is self-determining the size of its share. That's because countries cannot agree on what's a fair distribution.

"When every country's definition of fair and ambitious uses different metrics you won't easily get to a situation where you divide the carbon budget," said Kelly Levin, of the World Resources Institute, an environmental think tank.

Even though they're not enough by themselves, many experts are optimistic that the pledges presented so far will lead to even greater emissions reductions going forward and ultimately a major shift toward a low-carbon energy system, with a much greater share of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.

It remains unclear, though, whether governments will ramp up their emissions cuts before the carbon budget runs out. While emissions have started to fall in developed countries, they are still rising fast in China and other fast-growing developing nations.

Last week, Indian Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar told The Associated Press that any international deal must allow India's emissions to grow as it expands its economy and fights poverty.

He said that means richer countries that have polluted the atmosphere for much longer should make bigger cuts to their own emissions.

"We are asking the developed world to vacate the carbon space to accommodate us," Javadekar said. "It is our right as a nation. It's our right as people of India, and we want that carbon space." □

Aguilera connects with roots on Ecuador hunger relief trip

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Christina Aguilera has visited Haiti, Rwanda and Guatemala on relief effort trips, but last week in Ecuador she not only offered support to struggling and hungry children — she also connected with her roots. Aguilera's father is from Ecuador. The trip marked the first time the 34-year-old singer, who was born in New York, had visited the country.

"This particular trip was sort of extra-special for me because it is my blood and heritage. My father was born in Ecuador and my grandfather was born in Quito, which is the city I stayed in. And we would drive out in the fields which were hours away by car and into the farmland and sort of refugee areas where people are struggling," Aguilera said in an

interview with The Associated Press on Monday.

"This was a really interesting and raw way to go about it. It wasn't like I vacationed there in one of the more beautiful spots such as Galapagos Islands or things like that. I went into the fields and got to meet the women and children there who are really trying to survive," she said. Aguilera has been a volunteer global spokesperson for Yum! Brands' World Hunger Relief since 2009. She has visited Rwanda, Haiti and Guatemala. She chose to visit Ecuador this year from a list provided to her, Aguilera said.

"I definitely had always wanted to go visit where my dad comes from, the culture, you know, not having sort of a consistent relationship at all in my life with him and not really knowing him as I've gotten older through the



In this April 23, 2015 file photo, Christina Aguilera arrives at Season 8 of "The Voice" Red Carpet Event in West Hollywood, Calif.

Associated Press

years as well. You know, there's a history there. But, you know, it is a part of my blood and a part of my heritage and a part of my people," she said. "And I would look at the faces and I would sort of ... sometimes feel like I saw a resemblance. I think it's

important and I think it's good to know where you come from and sort of get to know your roots."

Aguilera said "it felt that much better to me that I was in a place that I felt so connected to and was able to give back to."

She's filmed a public ser-

vice announcement to raise hunger awareness that will be released next month. Yum! Brands Inc., the parent company of Pizza Hut, Taco Bell and KFC, said its eight-year-old World Hunger Relief initiative has raised \$600 million in cash and food for the United Nations' World Food Programme and other organizations.

Her trip included visiting schools and providing lunch for children who have to travel far to get to school. "It takes these kids 45 minutes walking by themselves, alone, up a hill," she said.

"It's really hard for these kids and I couldn't wait to come back and tell my own kids these stories to ... better appreciate what they have," the mother of two said. "These kids, they just were the most well-mannered, sweet-natured, little kids." □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their "Aruhiba" logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free "Aruhiba" cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also

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Owner Benjamin Petrocchi

Damon, Scott book a return to space in 'The Martian'

JAKE COYLE

AP Film Write

TORONTO (AP) — "The Martian" was briefly stranded in Hollywood development when Ridley Scott reached out to Matt Damon, the star attached to the stalled projected.

The script by Drew Goddard ("Cabin in the Woods") from Andy Weir's novel was full of the kind of nerdy humor and science geekery that few would associate with the masculine epics Scott is known for. But the 77-year-old British director tends not to concern himself with such trifles.

"He goes, 'We've never met,'" recalls Damon, barking an impression of the no-nonsense Scott. "And I said, 'No, we've never met.' He goes, 'The script is good!' And I said, 'Yeah.'"



In this Sept. 11, 2015 photo, Matt Damon poses for a portrait in promotion of his upcoming role in "The Martian" at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. Associated Press

He goes, 'It's (expletive) great.' 'Yeah.' 'Why aren't we making this?' I said, 'I guess we are.'"

The unexpected combinations of talent that went into making "The Martian" are fitting for a movie of such hybrid en-

tertainments. It's a space tale more grounded in science fact than fiction; a 3-D popcorn movie full of mathematics; an ode to science that's funny.

"The Martian," which 20th Century Fox will release Friday, is that rare earthly

creature: a blockbuster with brains. There may be water on Mars, as NASA announced Monday, but there's been a drought at the multiplex.

Damon stars as astronaut Mark Watney, whose crewmembers, thinking him dead from a flying piece of debris, leave him behind on Mars as they rush to flee a sand storm. Alone on the red planet, Watney's fate is seemingly sealed, but through his own scientific ingenuity, improvises his survival. NASA (including an ensemble of Jeff Daniels, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Jessica Chastain) mounts a rescue mission with its own scientific dexterity.

Rarely has there been a film more celebratory of the space program and the problem-solving power of science. NASA has embraced the film with celestial warmth, screening it for the crew on the International Space Station.

The solitary extreme of "The Martian" may be reminiscent of "Gravity," but its closeness to another recent space drama infused with the spirit of space exploration — Christopher Nolan's "Interstellar," in which Damon was also alone on a distant planet — gave the actor pause.

Damon (who spoke in a recent interview before comments he made about diversity and sexuality drew criticism) took a year and a half off from acting while his family (he has four daughters with wife Luciana Barroso) moved to Los Angeles. "The Martian" was his first film since "Interstellar."

"I said, 'Look, I'm in Chris's movie. I'm stranded on a planet,'" Damon recalls telling Scott. "If I then follow that up with a guy stranded on a planet..."

The director sought out Nolan to see an early cut of "Interstellar" and decided the similarity wasn't an issue. "I mean, they're making another Batman movie already," laughs Damon, alluding to the upcoming role for his friend, Ben Affleck.

Space, of course, is also

a familiar frontier to Scott, who forever endeared himself to sci-fi fans early in his career with "Blade Runner" and "Alien." Decades later, he's found himself firmly back in the genre with "The Martian" and 2013's "Prometheus," for which he's currently prepping one and, he says, possibly two sequels.

"I loved it," says Scott. "I realized on the first day how much I missed it."

"The Martian," which largely drew raves out of its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, has been portrayed as a return-to-form for Scott following critical disappointments like "Exodus" (which was slammed for its largely white cast) and his Cormac McCarthy adaptation "The Counselor."

"The press can be very negative," Scott says. "I never let it get to me, not for a long time. The last time I got upset about press was 'Blade Runner.' No one liked it."

Having Scott aboard, Damon says, mitigated his concerns about playing most of his scenes alone. Like a video diary, Watney speaks the majority of his lines to cameras situated around the Mars habitat.

"You have no one co-signing your fantasy," Damon says. "It is kind of like when you were a kid making a game up in your room. It's entirely dependent on not cracking. It was the challenge of the movie and kind of why I wanted to do it."

Besides prepping the "Prometheus" sequel, "Alien: Paradise Lost," Scott is managing his busy production company, Scott Free Productions. Damon, following his short hiatus, has packed in a shoot in China with Zhang Yimou, a new "Bourne" film with director Paul Greengrass and a planned Alexander Payne movie ("Downsizing").

But "The Martian" aligned the men's orbits for a mutual return to space, propelled by the workmanlike Scott. Not that the director is one to get all cosmic about it. □

Kate Winslet has 'no reservations' about 'Steve Jobs' movie

JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — There are so many reasons for Kate Winslet to feel great about the new "Steve Jobs" movie that it doesn't matter that critics panned the 2013 film "Jobs," which was also about the Apple Computer co-founder.

"I have no reservations whatsoever and so excited to be a part of this project," Winslet said in a recent interview at the Toronto Film Festival. She plays Joanna Hoffman, who worked closely with Jobs from the early days of Apple Computer.

Winslet's confidence comes in part from the approach taken by the film's Oscar-winning team: writer Aaron Sorkin and director Danny Boyle. Both have a knack for tackling contemporary subject matter. But Winslet also feels that with a figure as prominent in the public conscience as Jobs, it's hard to do a critically acclaimed biopic. So she's happy it wasn't made that way.

"It's actually very much not that. It is deliberately not that. Aaron Sorkin decided that there was no interest for him in writing it in that way," explained Winslet, who was in Toronto to promote another film, "The Dressmaker."

Based on Walter Isaacson's book of the same name, the film was shot like a play, rehearsed like one, and told in three acts. "Each act covers a different year: 1984, '88 and '98 in Steve Jobs' creative working life," Winslet said. "We shot each act in chronological order, one act at a time." While the actress said making the film was

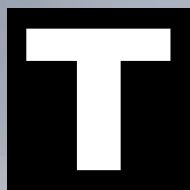


In this Sept. 14, 2015 file photo, Kate Winslet attends the premiere for "The Dressmaker" at the Toronto International Film Festival at in Toronto. Associated Press

educational, she also said it was a "tough, but fascinating process."

"It was very, very challenging. It's 187 pages of continuous dialogue of just people talking," she said. "It was very hard for all of us to really come up with what Danny (Boyle) wanted and needed to put this film together."

"Steve Jobs" plays the New York Film Festival on Saturday, before opening nationwide on Oct. 8. □



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